

2017 Nebraska Fact Sheet: HIV among Men Who Have Sex with Men

This analysis is restricted to those meeting the CDC definition of men who have sex with men (MSM). This population continues to be significantly affected by HIV compared to other populations. Between 2013 and 2017, nearly 60% of all new HIV cases in Nebraska were MSM, including those who use injection drugs. Most MSM are exposed to HIV through unprotected sex. Factors that increase HIV risk among MSM include:

- Inconsistent condom use
- Anonymous sex partners
- Substance abuse, especially before or during sex
- Not getting tested regularly
- Lack of communication between sex partners about HIV status
- Co-infection with other sexually transmitted diseases

New HIV Cases*

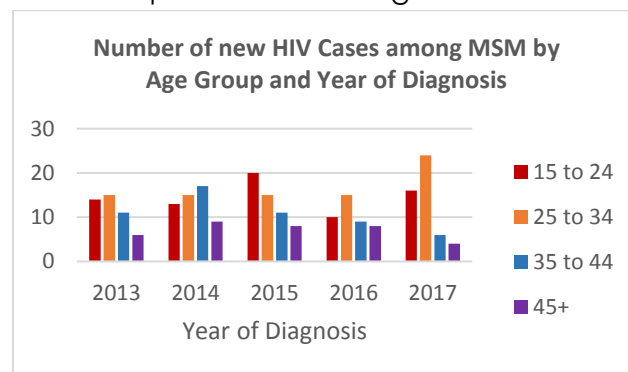
Just under 50% of those with newly diagnosed with HIV in Nebraska report the method of transmission as MSM. About 7% of these cases report injecting drugs, which substantially increases the chances they will transmit HIV to someone else.

Table 1: New HIV Cases among MSM by year of diagnosis

Diagnosis Year	MSM Only (no.)	MSM/IDU (no.)	Total MSM (no.)	% of All New HIV Cases
2013	41	4	45	53
2014	54	6	60	55
2015	46	6	52	59
2016	39	3	42	55
2017	47	3	50	56

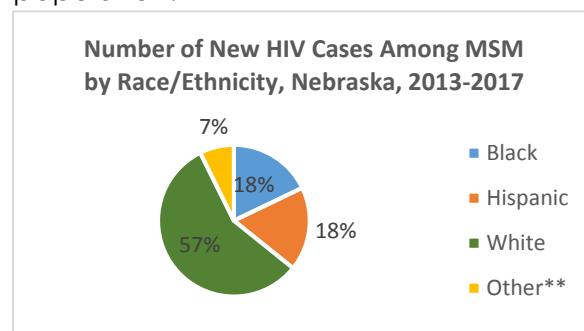
By Age

Most MSM cases are diagnosed before the age of 35. From 2013 to 2017, there was an increase in the number of MSM diagnosed between 15 and 34 years of age. The rise in new cases among this population is creating a push to re-evaluate prevention strategies.



By Race and Hispanic Origin

Approximately 18% of Nebraska's population are non-white non-Hispanic. However, over 40% of Nebraska's newly identified HIV infections occur in minority populations. The proportion of newly identified HIV infections in minority populations have occurred at twice the proportion as the overall state population.



*The term "new HIV cases" refers to all new diagnosis of HIV infection, with or without AIDS

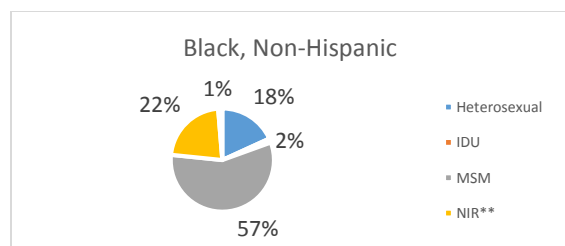
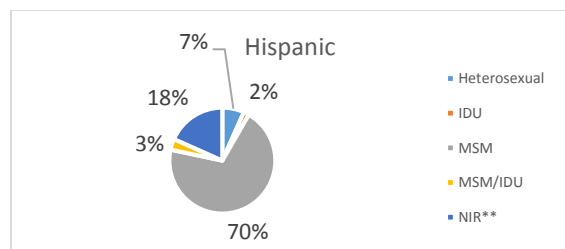
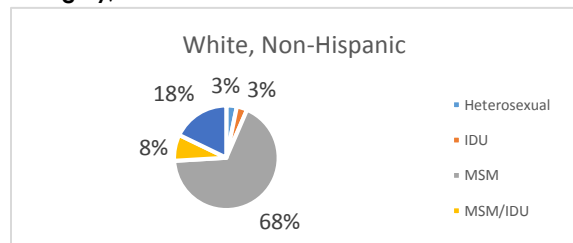
**other includes Asian, Native American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, and multiracial

By Race/Ethnicity and HIV Exposure Category

In Nebraska between 2013 and 2017, 75% of white, non-Hispanic males identified as MSM (MSM and MSM/IDU) compared to 57% for Black males. Hispanic males identified as MSM in 73% of the newly identified HIV cases.

Most male HIV cases in Nebraska, regardless of racial and ethnic groups, are MSM. The MSM population may experience homophobic stigma and discrimination which can lead to concealing their sexual orientation and identity. Many indicate fear of receiving a negative response from healthcare workers which can lead to not accessing services.

Percent of New HIV Cases Among Males by Exposure Category, 2013-2017

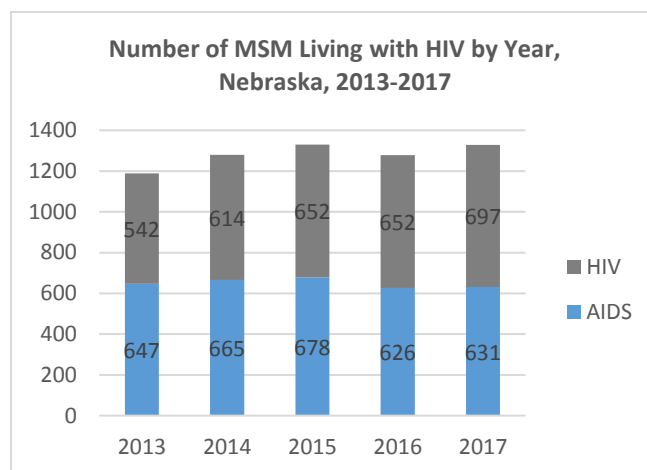


Excludes foreign born black cases, most of which are attributed to heterosexual sex that occurred outside the U.S.

** NIR: People who do not have a risk identified. Every effort is made at the time of diagnosis to get a risk through interviews.

Living HIV Cases

As of December 31, 2017, there were 1,328 HIV positive MSM living in Nebraska. The number of MSM living with HIV increases about 2% each year. After a decrease of 4% in 2016, the number of MSM living with HIV rebounded in 2017 to nearly the same number as in 2015 (1,330). The proportion of people living with HIV and AIDS has changed slightly over the last five years. For the past two years, over 50% of MSM living with HIV had not progressed to AIDS.



Testing in Nebraska

HIV testing in Nebraska is available at all physician offices, hospitals, medical clinics and counseling and testing sites. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) Counseling and Testing Program has multiple federally funded HIV test sites located across Nebraska. At these test sites, the client has the option of testing anonymously (by number) or confidentially (by name). Testing at any other site is confidential only. To locate a counseling and testing site near you, go to: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Document/CTRPCRsites.pdf>.